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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 307
By Turner (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION To designate April as "Minority Health
Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, African Americans and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately represented among Tennessee's economically-disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, The health status of Tennesseans living in poverty (including economically-disadvantaged African Americans and Hispanic Americans), is significantly and persistently inferior to the health status of other Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Disturbing disparities persist in mortality and morbidity rates between the state's minority and majority populations; and

WHEREAS, Economically-disadvantaged African Americans and Hispanic Americans residing in Tennessee suffer significantly higher rates of cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as well as a wide variety of other serious diseases and disorders; and

WHEREAS, The infant mortality rate within Tennessee's minority population is almost double the infant mortality rate within Tennessee's majority population; and

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WHEREAS, State government should take all appropriate and prudent measures to vigorously attack these problems by encouraging preventative health care and healthier lifestyles and by increasing access to relevant health-related information and quality health care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That in the interest of promoting healthier lifestyles and greater access to quality health care for African Americans and Hispanic Americans residing in this state, beginning 2002, the month of April shall be annually designated as "Minority Health Awareness Month in Tennessee."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body urges and encourages all Tennesseans to annually observe "Minority Health Awareness Month" by supporting and participating in programs and activities to attack the many problems associated with the health status disparities persistently experienced by African Americans and Hispanic Americans residing in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Black Health Care Commission and the Office of Minority Health within the Tennessee Department of Health shall annually undertake appropriate activities to jointly promote "Minority Health Awareness Month in Tennessee."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Black Health Care Commission and to the Office of Minority Health within the Tennessee Department of Health.